Natya Shikara
Hong Kong

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Hong Kong

Compiled by

Chitra Sivakumar

Children Cultural Group, Hong Kong
2014

ॐ

As Gurudakshina for my daughter Gayathri's
Guru Sandhya Gopal
and her parents

Acknowledgements

Mrs. Sandhya Gopal, Guru, Natya Shikara
Ms. Sakshi Kaushik, daughter of Mrs. Sandhya Gopal
Ms. Gayathri Sivakumar
All parents of students of Natya Shikara for providing us with photos
All students without whom this book would not have come out

Introduction

Bharathanatyam isn't just dance. It's drama, it's theatre, it's art. It relies on a certain fervent energy to create dynamic atmospheres; the vivacious beats combine with the sophistication of the dancer to create a stunning display of ancient Indian stories and legends.

The delicacy of this art form hit home for Natya Shikara's esteemed Guru Smt. Sandhya Gopal at the tender age of five. Despite being denied the chance to join lessons immediately, her desire to learn was evident as she spent countless hours observing classes and mirroring her older sister with a keen eye. At the age of seven, Sandhya Gopal began her dancing career under the tutelage of her respected Guru Smt. Jayalakshmi Narayan of Kalakshetra in Hyderabad. Forty years later and counting, her vested interest and passion is growing almost exponentially.

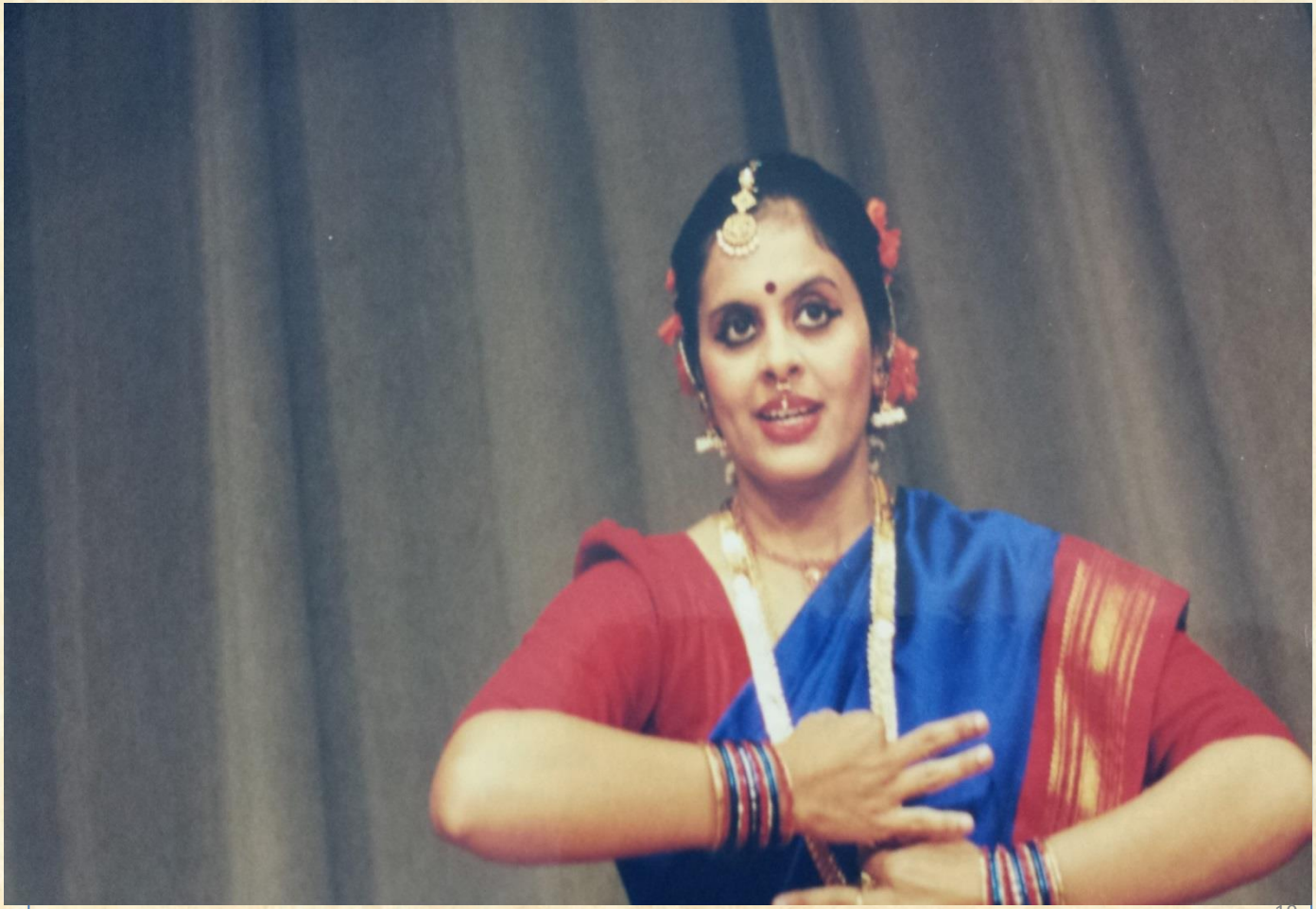
A Bharathanatyam dancer knows that the art form is not solely based on the technical accuracy of the footsteps or the swift placement of the arms. Rather, it thrives on the intuition of the dancer to make his or her judgements. Where should the eyes focus? How should the face change to convey an emotion? How and where should the body lean? Such things aren't taught. This innate grace develops with maturity and the ability to control oneself on stage is honed through continued training and dedication.

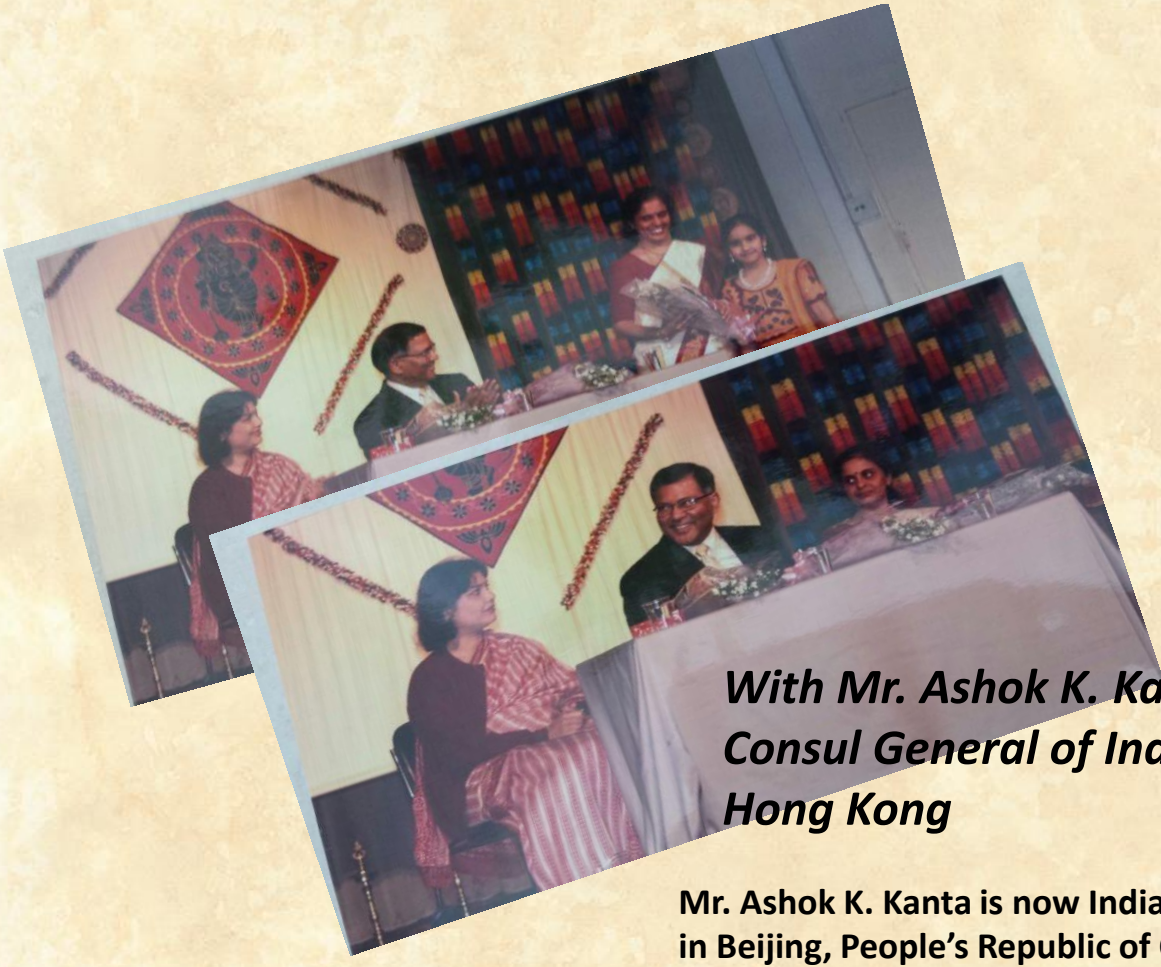
Guru of Gurus

Gurus of Mrs. Sandhya Gopal

Natya Shikara was conceived in 1997, when Guru Sandhya started with just a single student. Since then, it has flourished rapidly and has drawn over 50 students from various parts of Hong Kong. Sandhya is renowned for hosting Hong Kong's first ever Bharathanatyam Aragetram in 2003 and has since imparted her wisdom and gift to many others. Her students are popular with the Hong Kong Government and the Indian Association and are often called upon to showcase their talents in various cultural programmes.

Sandhya aspires to put Bharathanatyam on the world's cultural frontier by raising the art form's profile by giving performances on a global scale. By not only capturing talent and a sense of ethnic grace, Sandhya wishes to instil discipline and share her love for dance. Most importantly, her dream is to keep alive the Indian culture and roots by carrying forward a traditional art form.





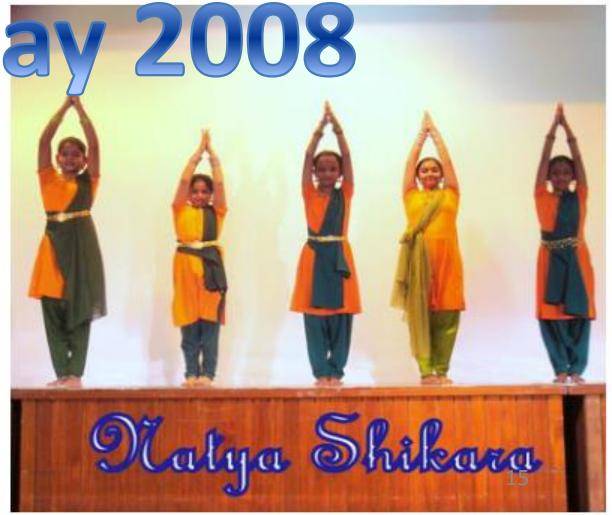
With Mr. Ashok K. Kanta, Consul General of India in Hong Kong

Mr. Ashok K. Kanta is now Indian Ambassador in Beijing, People's Republic of China

தமிழ்ப் பண்பாட்டுக் கழகம்
ஆங்காங்

தமிழ்ப் பண்பாட்டுக் கழகம்
ஆங்காங்

First Annual Day 2008



Second Annual Day 2010

Annual Gathering 2012

油尖旺區
萬眾同心賀回歸
十周年慶典暨珍藏車巡遊

香港五四青年節2009
同夢．同心 一
團結
未來

DIVERSITY
ARE EQUAL. ACCEPT DIVERSITY.

03/12

International Night

A CELEBRATION OF DIVERSITY
ALL ARE DIFFERENT. ALL ARE EQUAL. ACCEPT DIVERSITY.
KORG

LAASYOTSAVA

觀塘區議會
觀塘民政事務處 主辦
觀塘區家長教師會聯會 協辦
同一個夢想綜合晚會

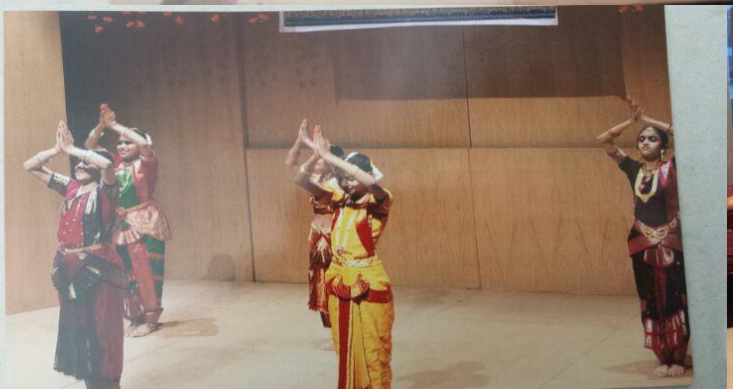
KANNADA SANGHA

Chinese YMCA of Hong Kong

Natya

महाराष्ट्र मंडळ
हाँगकाँग

Natya Shikara



Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba's
84th Birthday Celebrations
2009/11/28 7:35

Performance in
World Yoga Conference

Guangzhou
People's Republic of China

Performance in Macau

Newspaper Coverages

Young Post
YOUR PICTURES
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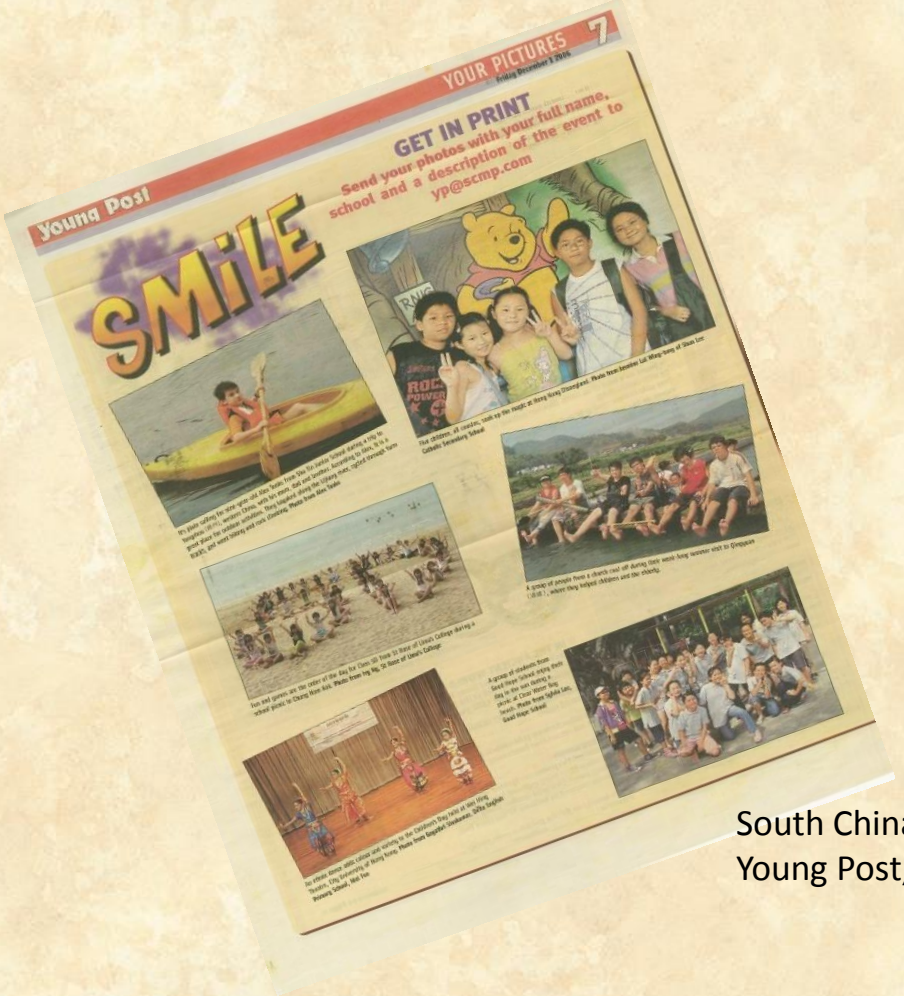
South China Morning Post
Young Post, September 25, 2006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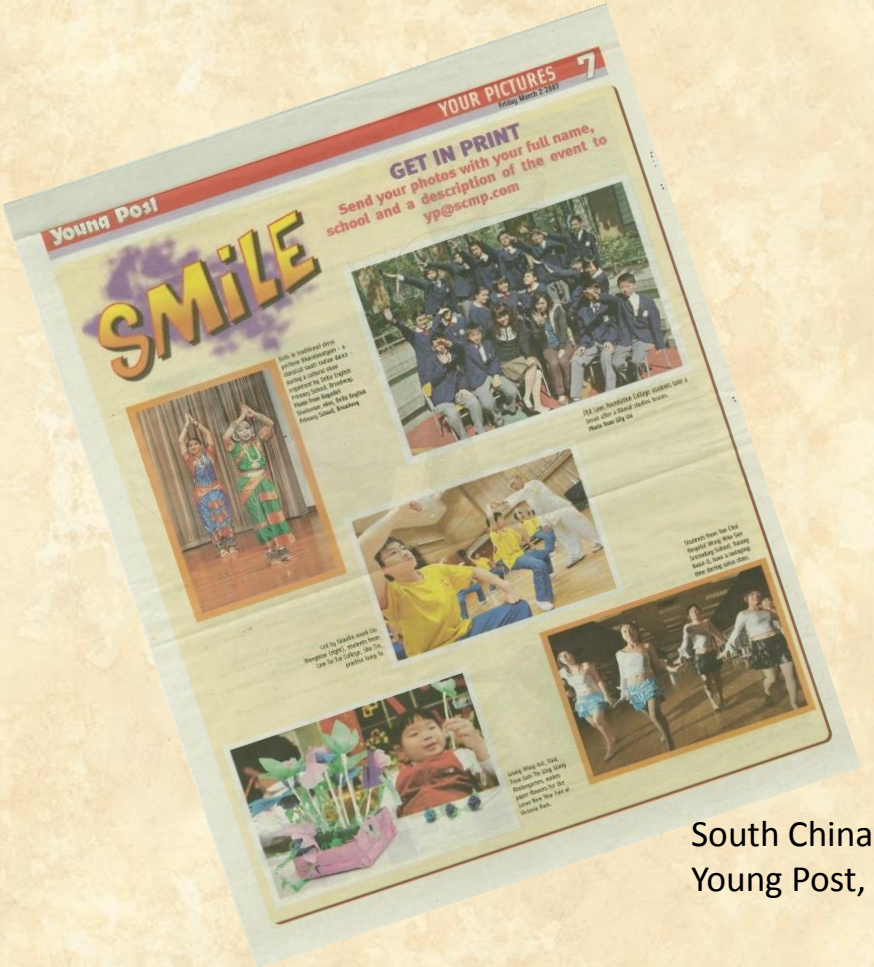
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South China Morning Post
Young Post, March 2, 2007

Gary Glitter dreams of freedom and a home in Hong Kong

Simon Parry

Disgraced former pop star Gary Glitter may be released early from his prison term in Vietnam after suffering a suspected heart attack – and the convicted paedophile is considering starting a new life in Hong Kong.

The 63-year-old Briton – jailed for three years in 2005 for molesting girls aged 11 and 12 – was last week recovering in a hospital custody unit after collapsing in his prison cell with heart problems a fortnight ago.

British embassy officials and prison authorities have since been holding talks over whether Glitter, due for release in August, should be freed early either [illegible] amnesty or under a sentence reduction on humanitarian grounds.

In talks with his Vietnamese lawyer Le Thanh Kinh, Glitter – real name Paul Francis Gadd – has already made it clear he has no wish to return to Britain to live and has asked him about the possibility of starting a new life in Hong Kong.

Observers point out that Hong Kong has two particularly appealing elements for a paedophile with a

Priscilla Lui Tsang Sun-kai, executive director of Against Child Abuse, said Glitter's case highlighted the need for a sex-offender register in Hong Kong – an issue she said had "not received the priority it should have received".

"I know a lot of people are concerned about the human rights of people in these circumstances – people who have served their sentence and turned a new leaf. They say we shouldn't penalise them again," she said.

"That stream of argument has been the predominant one here in Hong Kong, blocking the second category of concern which is how do we balance the children and community's safety and protection which we have been very concerned about."

Ms Lui said Hong Kong should have a close but well-monitored register similar to the one in Australia, rather than a more open US register where details of offenders were put on the internet.

"We do think careful monitoring would be in the best interests of children and the community," she said.

The case of Glitter – who lived in

A leg up for India. Dancers from the Hong Kong Bharatanatyam Group perform during a two-day festival, the Hidden Glories of India, organised by the local branch of International Society for Krishna Consciousness to popularise Indian culture. Viva performers from Poland are also performing as a part of th festival, which is the first of its kind in the city. Photo: Edward W

South China Morning Post, January 27, 2008

Virakesari,
Sri Lanka

Arangetram

Solo Debut Recital Performances

Soumya Hariswamy

Renuka Santhanam

South China Morning Post
Weather: 15-19°c. Mainly fine. Humidity 60-80%
WWW.YP.SCMP.COM
young post sunday
March 15, 2009

4 Prize producer David Foster's path to success
9 Survival story Read a tale of bravery and love
12 Ever upwards Japanese film celebrates sky crews

A local student returns to her roots by embracing the power of traditional music and dance, writes **Emily Halban**

Take me home

THE BINDIS (FROM TOP RIGHT): DISGUST, LOVE, PITY, WONDER, ANGER, DELIGHT, TERROR, COURAGE, TRANQUILITY. PHOTOS: SHAM STUDIO AND VIDEO PRODUCTION

In India, there is no dance without music, no music without a story, rarely a story without a myth, and seldom a myth that does not speak of gods and goddesses. So it goes without saying that dance, gods, music and myth inevitably go hand in hand.

Add to this combination a backdrop of lavish costumes, mesmerising makeup and shimmering jewels, and you begin to get a taste of Indian classical dance in all its splendour.

The thing that distinguishes the *Natya Shastra* from other stagecraft guidebooks is its focus on emotion

At the very heart of all of India's performing arts theories lies the *Natya Shastra*.

The *Natya Shastra* (loosely translated as "A Manual of Dramatic Arts") is an ancient Indian essay said to have been written in the period between 200BC and 200AD, and traditionally believed to be written by the wise man Bharata.

What distinguishes the *Natya Shastra* from other stagecraft guidebooks is its focus on emotion. Bharata tells of nine principal emotions, or *rasas*, that each performer must convey: disgust, love, pity, wonder, anger, delight, terror, courage and tranquility.

Dancers express these emotions with a combination of facial expressions, strong makeup and intricate hand gestures. These gestures, known as *mudras*, can either be single-handed, or formed with both hands joining together.

Renuka Santhanagopalan is a 17-year-old student from Hong Kong. She has lived here all her life, but her family is originally from southern India.

Renuka started learning classical Indian dance at one of the two Indian dance schools in the city when she was just seven years old.

Ten years on and she has passed her *Arangetram*, the ceremonious graduation performance that now qualifies her as a professional dancer. In that time, Renuka had to memorise 52 *mudras*, with their full name in Sanskrit.

She also had to learn how to understand rhythm, interpret music, synchronise her body movements and harmonise her facial expressions so her whole body puts across the emotions she wants to convey.

"Courage was the hardest [emotion] to get right," she says.

As part of her training, Renuka also studied singing and learned to play the veena, the south Indian form of a lute.

"This way I can really immerse myself in the music and bring my dancing to life," she explains.

While Hong Kong may be Renuka's home, India remains her homeland. When she dances, she is transported back to her roots, simply with the rise of an eyebrow or the tap of a foot.

Natya Shi

Sakshi Kaushik

MYLAPORE TIMES

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music, dance
art & cu
Ev

11th JULY
Saturday

Bharatanatyam Arangetram of Sakshi Kaushik, student of Natya Shikara Dance School. At R.K. Swamy Hall, 5, Sundareswarar St., Mylapore. At 6.30 p.m.

Sri Ra
Mylapore.
Suktaa' by
Vimurtana

12th

Dr. S.

LINKING AUSTRALIA WITH IND

Indian L

Vol. 11 No. 1 • October 2009

10th anniversary iss

400 ye

of the Guru Granth Sahib at the Golden Temple

Sakshi's hour of glory

Thousand Spices
trendy Indian

ART MUSIC THEATRE DANCE

One Day in Ashadha, Sivagami Petachi Auditorium, July 10, 11 and 12, 7.15 pm

ocolate Krishna, Vani Ma-
l. Tomorrow, 7 pm

Name is Basheer, Film
eening, Madras Terrace
use, Tomorrow, 7.30 pm

Gopal, will perform on July 11 at RK Swamy Auditorium, Mylapore. Sakshi has been learning the dance form from the age of six from her mother Sandhya Gopal, an accomplished Bharatanatyam dancer in Hong Kong and Sydney. Sakshi has given many Bharatanatyam, semi-classical and Bollywood style of performances on various occasions in Hong Kong, Australia and India. For the arangetram, she will be accompanied by Ashok Nagar sisters R Premalatha and Malani Kumar on the vocals, Ganeshan on mridangam, KR Suresh on violin, Raghavendra Rao on flute and

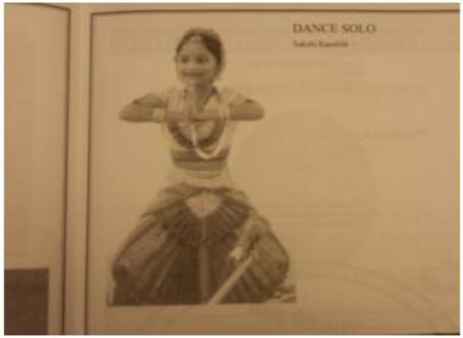
BOOKWORM

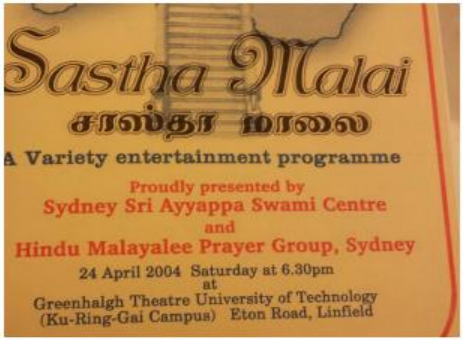
(FANTASY)

ever returned? As the Crimson Guard prepares to wage war, Empress Laseen's generals grow impatient at what they perceive as her mismanagement of the Empire. Is Laseen losing her grip on power or has she outwitted them all? Could she be using the uprisings to

TIP:

Chennai Tim

show

DANCE SOLO


Sastha Malai

சாஸ்தா மாலை

A Variety entertainment programme

Proudly presented by
Sydney Sri Ayyappa Swami Centre
and
Hindu Malayalee Prayer Group, Sydney

24 April 2004 Saturday at 6.30pm
at
Greenhalgh Theatre University of Technology
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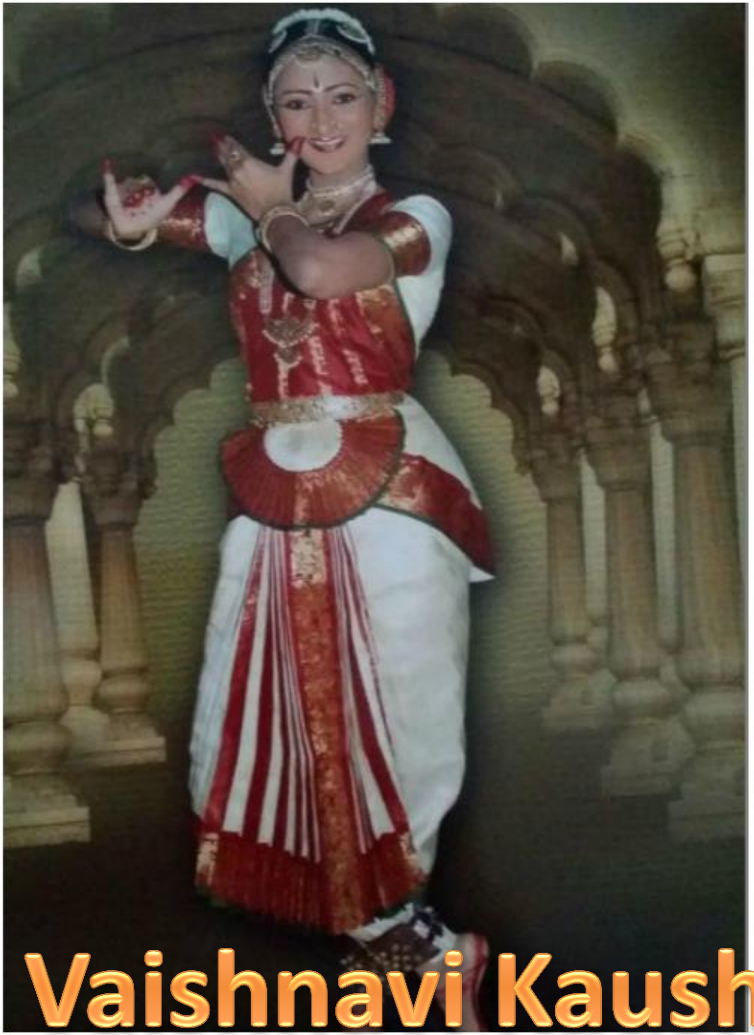


Vaishnavi Kaushik

ಕು । ವೈಷ್ಣವಿಯ ರಂಗಪ್ರವೇಶದ ದೃಶ್ಯಾವಳಿ

(ವರದಿ ಪುಟ 23)

ಕು। ವೈಷ್ಣವಿ ರಂಗಪ್ರವೇಶ

ಶ್ರೀಮತಿ ಸಂಧ್ಯಾ ಗೋಪಾಲ್ ಮತ್ತಿತರರು ಉತ್ತಮವಾದ ಸಹಕಾರ ನೀಡಿದರು.

ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮದ ಮುಖ್ಯ ಅತಿಥಿಗಳಾಗಿ ಸಂಗೀತ, ನೃತ್ಯ ಹಾಗೂ ಚಿತ್ರರಂಗದ ಪ್ರಮುಖರು ಪಾಲ್ಗೊಂಡುದು ವಿಶೇಷವಾಗಿತ್ತು. ಕಲಾಶ್ರೀ ಶ್ರೀಮತಿ ಬಿ. ಭಾನುಮತಿ, ಶ್ರೀ ನಾಗತಿಹಳ್ಳಿ ಚಂದ್ರಶೇಖರ್, ಶ್ರೀಮತಿ ಸಂಗೀತಾ ಕಟ್ಟಿ ಕುಲಕರ್ಣಿ, ಗುರು ಶ್ರೀಮತಿ ಸಂಧ್ಯಾ ಗೋಪಾಲ್ ಮೊದಲಾದವರು ವೈಷ್ಣವಿಯ ನರ್ತನಕೌಶಲವನ್ನು, ಚಿಗರೆ ಕಣ್ಣುಗಳ ಚಮತ್ಕಾರವನ್ನು ಮನಸಾರೆ ಹೊಗಳಿದರು. ವೈಷ್ಣವಿಯ ತಂದೆ-ತಾಯಿಗಳಾದ ಶ್ರೀ ಉದಯ ಕೌಶಿಕ್ ಮತ್ತು ಶ್ರೀಮತಿ ಕಾತ್ಯಾಯನಿ ಅವರು ಅತಿಥಿಗಳನ್ನು ಆದರಿಸಿ ಗೌರವಿಸಿದರು. ಶ್ರೀ ಷಡಕ್ಷರಿ ಅಚ್ಚುಕಟ್ಟಾಗಿ ನಿರೂಪಿಸಿದರು.

ಹೊಸಹಳ್ಳಿಯ ದಿ। ವೆಂಕಟಗಿರಿ ಮತ್ತು

ವಾರದ ಮುನ್ನೋಟ

ಕಿರಿ ನಾಟಕ

ಆಗಸ್ಟ್ 7 ಮತ್ತು 8
ಮುಂಬೈ ಸಿನಿಮಾಟೋಗ್ರಾಫ್ ತಂಡದ ವತಿಯಿಂದ ಇಂಗ್ಲಿಷ್ ನಾಟಕ- ಹ್ಯಾಮ್ಲೆಟ್ ದ ಕ್ವೆಶ್ ಟ್ರಸ್ಟ್, ನಿರ್ದೇಶನ- ರಜಾ ಕಪೂರ್. ಸ್ಥಳ: ರಂಗಶಂಕರ, ಜೆಪಿ ನಗರ. ಸಂಜೆ 7.30ಕ್ಕೆ.

ಆಗಸ್ಟ್ 8
ಹಾಂಗ್‌ಕಾಂಗ್ ನಾಟ್ಯ ಪಿಯರ ಡಾನ್ಸ್ ಸ್ಕೂಲ್ ವತಿಯಿಂದ ಕರಾವಳಿ ವೈಷ್ಣವಿ ಕೌಶಿಕ್ ಅವರ ಭರತ ನಾಟ್ಯ ನೇಪಥ್ಯ ಪ್ರವೇಶ. ಸ್ಥಳ: ಎಡಿಎ ರಂಗ ಮಂದಿರ, ಜೆ ಪಿ ರಸ್ತೆ. ಸಂಜೆ 6.30ಕ್ಕೆ.

ಆಗಸ್ಟ್ 15
ಸಪ್ತಕ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ ವತಿಯಿಂದ ಲಲಿತಾ ಹರೀಶ್ ಕಾಯ್ಕಿಣಿ ಸ್ಮಾರಕ ಸಂಗೀತ ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮ. ಗಾಯಕಿ- ಕೌಶಿಕ್ ಐತಾಳ್. ಸ್ಥಳ: ಹವ್ಯಕ ಸಭಾ ಭವನ, ಮಲ್ಲೇಶ್ವರಂ. ಸಂಜೆ 5ಕ್ಕೆ.

ಆಗಸ್ಟ್ 7
ಕರಾವಳಿ ಜೆ ಮತ್ತು ಶತ ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮ ಸಾಧನೆ ಸಂಭ್ರಮ. ಸ್ಥಳ: ನಯನ ಸಭಾಂಗಣ, ಜೆ ಪಿ ರಸ್ತೆ. ಸಂಜೆ 5.30ಕ್ಕೆ.

ನೃತ್ಯ ಪ್ರದರ್ಶನ

ಪಿ ಇಂಡಿಯನ್ ಫಾರ್ಮುಲೇಷನ್ ಆಫ್ ವರ್ಲ್ಡ್ ಕಲ್ಚರ್ ಆ.1ರಂದು ಮಿಸ್ಸಾ ಸುರೇಶ್ (ಸುರು- ಕುಚಿಪುಡಿ ನೃತ್ಯಾಂಗನೆ) ಅವರಿಂದ ಭರತನಾಟ್ಯ ಪ್ರದರ್ಶನವನ್ನು ಏರ್ಪಡಿಸಿದೆ.

ಸ್ಥಳ: ಸಂಜೆ ಸಭಾಂಗಣ, ಬಿ.ಪಿ. ವಾಡಿಯಾ ರಸ್ತೆ. ಸಮಯ: ಸಂಜೆ 6.

ಗಾಯನ

ಬೆಂದಗಿರಿ ಶ್ರೀ ವೆಂಕಟೇಶ್ವರ ಟ್ರಸ್ಟ್ ವತಿಯಿಂದ ಶ್ರೀ ವೆಂಕಟೇಶ್ವರ ದೇವಸ್ಥಾನವು ಆ.6ರಂದು ಉಮಾಮಹೇಶ್ವರಿಯವರಿಂದ ಗಾಯನ ಏರ್ಪಡಿಸಿದೆ. ಮೀರಾ ರಾಜಕುಮಾರ್- ಪಿಟೀಲು, ರಾಜಕುಮಾರ್ -ಮೃದಂಗದಲ್ಲಿ ಸಾಥ್ ನೀಡುವರು.

ಸ್ಥಳ: ದೇವಸ್ಥಾನ ಆವರಣ, ಒಣಕಂಬಿ 2ನೇ ಬಡಾ ಸಮಯ: ಸಂಜೆ 6.30.

ರಾಘವೇಂದ್ರ ಆರಾಧನೆ

ಶ್ರೀ ವ್ಯಾಸರಾಯ ಮಠವು ಶ್ರೀ ರಾಘವೇಂದ್ರ

ರಂಗಪ್ರವೇಶ

ಹಾಂಗ್‌ಕಾಂಗ್‌ನ ನಾಟ್ಯಪಿಯರ ನೃತ್ಯ ಶಾಲೆಯ ವೈಷ್ಣವಿ ಕೌಶಿಕ್‌ರ ಭರತನಾಟ್ಯ ರಂಗಪ್ರವೇಶವನ್ನು ಆ.8ರಂದು ನಗರದಲ್ಲಿ ಆಯೋಜಿಸಿದೆ.

ಸಂಧ್ಯಾ ಗೋಪಾಲ್‌ರ ಶಿಷ್ಯೆ ವೈಷ್ಣವಿಯವರ ನೃತ್ಯ ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮದಲ್ಲಿ ಬಿ. ಭಾನುಮತಿ, ಚಿತ್ರ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕ ನಾಗತಿಹಳ್ಳಿ ಚಂದ್ರಶೇಖರ್, ಗಾಯಕಿ ಸಂಗೀತ ಕಟ್ಟಿ ಕುಲಕರ್ಣಿ ಅತಿಥಿಗಳಾಗಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸುವರು.

ಸ್ಥಳ: ಎಡಿಎ ರಂಗಮಂದಿರ, ಜೆ.ಪಿ. ರಸ್ತೆ. ಸಮಯ: ಸಂಜೆ 6.30.

ಭಾವಯಾನ-15

ಬಿಬಿರು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸುಗಮ ಸಂಗೀತ ಸಂಸ್ಥಾನ

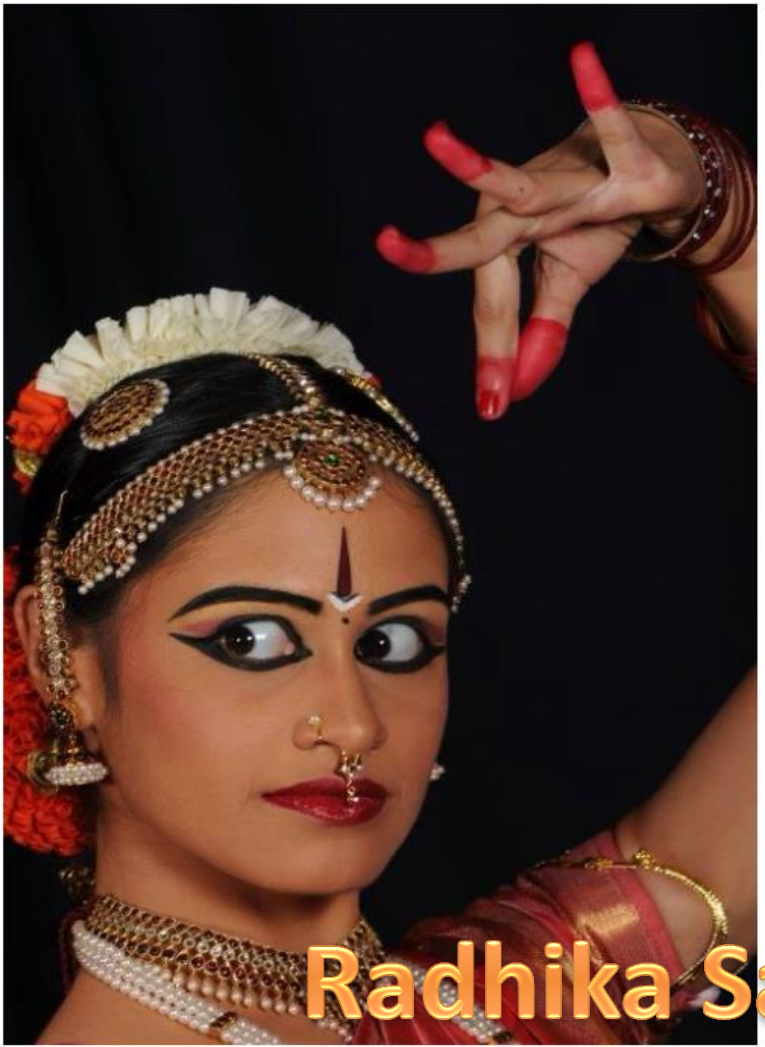
ಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮದಲ್ಲಿ ಕೊಳಮಠದ ಶಾಂಕವೀರ ಸ್ವಾಮೀಜಿ, ಸಚಿವ ಸುಬ್ಬಣ್ಣ ನಾಯ್ಡು, ರಂಗಭೂಮಿ ಕ ಡಾ. ಮಾಸೂರ ಪಿರಣ್ಣಯ್ಯ, ಬೆಂಗ ನಗರ ಪೊಲೀಸ್ ಆಯುಕ್ತ ಕಂಠಿ

ವೈಷ್ಣವಿ ಕೌಶಿಕ್ ರಂಗಪ್ರವೇಶ

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು, ಆ. ೫- ಹಾಂಗ್‌ಕಾಂಗ್‌ನ ನಾಟ್ಯ ಪಿಯರ ನೃತ್ಯ ಶಾಲೆಯ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿನಿ ವೈಷ್ಣವಿ ಕೌಶಿಕ್ ಆ. ೫ರಂದು ರಂಗಪ್ರವೇಶ ಮಾಡಲಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಅಂದು ಸಂಜೆ 6.30ಕ್ಕೆ ಎಡಿಎ ರಂಗಮಂದಿರದಲ್ಲಿ ನಡೆಯುವ ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮದಲ್ಲಿ ವೈಷ್ಣವಿ ರಂಗಪ್ರವೇಶ ಮಾಡುವರು.

ಮುಖ್ಯ ಅತಿಥಿಗಳಾಗಿ ಭರತನಾಟ್ಯ ಕಲಾವಿದೆ ಬಿ. ಭಾನುಮತಿ, ಚಿತ್ರ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕ ನಾಗತಿಹಳ್ಳಿ ಚಂದ್ರಶೇಖರ್, ಗಾಯಕಿ ಸಂಗೀತಾಕಟ್ಟಿ ಮುಂತಾದವರು ಉಪಸ್ಥಿತರಿರುವರು ಎಂದು ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ತಿಳಿಸಿದೆ.



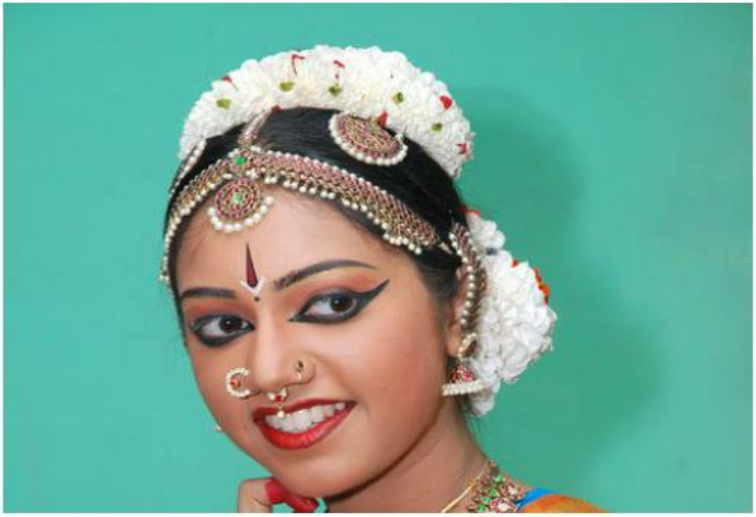
Radhika Santhanam

Nidhi Birla

Sharanya Ramaswamy

Other students

Performances



Uma Arunachalam

Rasya Rao

ழ்ப் பண்பாட்டுக் கழகம்
ஆங்காங்

Sakshi Kumar

Children Cultural Group

Hong Kong

Email : ccg.hongkong@gmail.com